

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An herbal formula for treating or lessening the severity of asthma, wherein said formula comprises an herbal mixture consisting of Ling-Zhi, Ku-Shen, and Gan-Cao.

2. The herbal formula according to claim 1, wherein said herbal formula contains about 9 to 40 grams of Ling-Zhi.

3. The herbal formula according to claim 2, wherein said herbal formula contains about 3 to 15 grams of Ku-Shen.

4. The herbal formula according to claim 3, wherein said herbal formula contains about 1.5 to 9 grams of Gan-Cao.

5. A composition comprising the herbal formula according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, or vehicle.

6. A composition comprising the herbal formula according to any one of claims 2 through 4, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant, or vehicle.

7. The composition according to claim 5, wherein said composition further comprises an additional therapeutic agent.

8. The composition according to claim 7, wherein said additional therapeutic agent is a corticosteroid.

9. The composition according to claim 8, wherein said corticosteroid is an inhaled corticosteroid.

10. The composition according to claim 7, wherein said additional therapeutic agent is a bronchodilator.

11. The composition according to claim 7, wherein said bronchodilator is an inhaled bronchodilator.

12. A method for treating or lessening the severity of asthma, in a patient in need thereof, wherein said method comprises administering to said patient the herbal formula according to claim 1 or the composition according to claim 5.

13. A method of suppressing GATA-3 in a patient in need thereof, wherein said method comprises administering to said patient the herbal formula according to claim 1 or the composition according to claim 5.

14. A method of suppressing the activation of memory Th2 cells in a patient in need thereof, wherein said method comprises administering to said patient the herbal formula according to claim 1 or the composition according to claim 6.